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3400 Forest Pest Management

December 21, 1981

## LaWishia Campground Hazard Tree Marking

Forest Supervisor, Gifford Pinchot NF

On December 1-3, 1981, Gregory M. Philip, Pathologist from the Regional Office, visited the Packwood Ranger District, Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Washington. Purpose of the visit was to assist the District in marking trees for removal in the LaWishia Campground. He assisted Susan Woschanski, District Recreation Forester.

In a report dated November 16, 1981 concerning LaWishia, we recommended that all trees with five or more canks of *Puccinia pinii*, causal agent of red ring rot, be removed if such trees are adjacent to buildings or camping areas. In addition, we recommended that trees adjacent to the river with root systems that are seriously eroded should be considered for removal, especially if they are within striking distance of camp units.

On the current visit, 137 trees were marked with orange or red flagging. District cruise estimates of the marked timber were 711,400 board feet gross and 352,400 board feet net. All hazard trees as described above were marked. In addition, a few large Douglas-firs near the Guard Station (Entry Unit) that were infected with laminated root rot were marked for removal. Also, some large Douglas-fir near the river (Riverside Unit) with basal canks of *Phaeolus schweinitzii*, causal agent of rad-brown butt rot, were marked for removal after it was established by boring that such trees did not have enough sound wood to safely support the trees.

In addition to marking hazard trees, three areas to receive small patch cuts were marked for tree removal according to the draft of the Vegetative Management Plan for LaWishia Campground. A small area near the Guard Station was marked for removal of six large Douglas-firs. Two of these trees were infected with laminated root rot. Opening the stand by removing all of the infected trees will reduce windthrow incidence and allow more regeneration to become established either naturally or by planting. It was recommended that Douglas-fir not be planted in this spot since it is highly susceptible to laminated root rot. Instead, cedar and, secondly, hemlock should be regenerated since both are more resistant to laminated root rot than Douglas-fir, especially cedar.

A second area was marked in the Complex Unit south of Section C. The area marked was larger than the one in the Entry Unit and included about 35 trees. This area will be planted with Douglas-fir and cedar after cutting. It is hoped that the opening will be large enough to allow sufficient light to grow Douglas-fir which is somewhat shade-intolerant. Some of the trees at the margins of the opening may be windthrown as a result of opening the stand. However, since no root rot was observed in the area and the proposed patch cut will not be between camping units, damage resulting from windthrow should be minimal.

The third area marked was within Section C and north of Unit 10 (Woodpile Unit). About seven old-growth Douglas-firs and hemlocks were marked for removal to create about a 1/4-acre opening. Some of the Douglas-firs had five or more cones of *P. pini*. Most of the proposed patch cut had dense hemlock regeneration which will probably be thinned out while removing the overstory trees according to the LeWickia plan. Photo points were established near each of the three proposed patch cuts to visually document the areas before and after treatment.

Small patch cuts planned for three other units, Flood, Riverside, and Riverside Top, were not marked as such since several groups of hazard trees were marked in each unit, in effect creating mini-patch cuts. In future years, these openings may be enlarged if no adverse effects are observed in units where patch cuts were marked this year.

The philosophy behind the patch cuts, according to the LeWickia Plan, is to slowly convert the decadent old-growth stand at LeWickia into a young, vigorous Douglas-fir and cedar stand while at the same time removing the most hazardous trees. Because of the northerly aspect, river valley location, and great height of most of the Campground trees, it may be extremely difficult to regenerate Douglas-fir even with the 1/2 to 1/4-acre patch cuts. Conversion to the more shade-tolerant cedar rather than Douglas-fir, which is naturally taking place in some sections of the campground, may be a more practical solution to long-term vegetative management in LeWickia.

We recommend that LeWickia be evaluated annually for hazard trees since many trees left unmarked and considered as borderline hazards may become serious hazards requiring treatment in the future.

If FPM can be of further assistance to the District, please contact us.

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